

STATE OF HOMELESSNESS &
HUNGER
IN THE CITY OF BOSTON
WINTER 1997-1998

*ANNUAL
CENSUS REPORT
DECEMBER 15, 1997*

MAYOR THOMAS M. MENINO



Emergency Shelter Commission
Kelley A. Cronin, Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. There were 2,974 men, 1,149 women, and 893 children counted during this year's census for a total of 5,016 compared to a total of 4,948 last year. The total number of homeless people in the City of Boston has increased 1.3%.
2. There were 180 men and women documented as sleeping on the street on the night of the census compared to 183 last year.
3. There were 1,903 men and 335 women staying in adult shelters on the night of the census for a total of 2,238. This number represents an increase of 4.5% over last year's shelter total of 2,142. Many of the adult shelters were over capacity on the night of the census.
4. This year's total of 1,057 in family shelters represents a 5.5% decrease over last year's shelter total of 1,117. There were 29 fathers, 349 mothers, and 679 children counted in family shelters and scattered site shelter programs. This number includes 8 fathers, 69 mothers, and 126 children from Boston who were placed in shelters throughout the Commonwealth as far away as Springfield.
5. There were 178 women and children this year in battered women's shelters compared to 179 last year.
6. This year for the first time the census counted the number of meals served at soup kitchens and other feeding programs. 8,472 meals were served to homeless or low-income citizens on December 15th.

THIS YEAR'S CENSUS METHODOLOGY

THE HOMELESS LIVING IN SHELTER

Approximately one month prior to the actual census, Boston's Emergency Shelter Commission mailed an advisory to all of the city's shelter providers and transitional programs to inform them of the study. Shelter contacts were informed which day the census was to be taken and how the survey would be conducted; the Shelter Commission also requested volunteers for the street count. Each program was asked to tabulate the population of their shelter on the night of the count. The City's Emergency Shelter Commission then contacted each shelter on December 16th to obtain the total from the previous night.

THE HOMELESS LIVING ON THE STREET

The City was divided into thirty-eight separate areas for the purpose of the census. The downtown areas were created so that they are small enough to be thoroughly covered by volunteers on foot; outlying neighborhoods where there have been few homeless people identified in the past were covered by car. Even in these neighborhoods, volunteers were expected to leave their vehicles and conduct the census by foot in areas which had a higher likelihood of homeless individuals. Volunteers were provided with a list of locations in their area where homeless individuals were known to be.

All teams utilized radios or cellular phones to facilitate communication during the census. This was required to guarantee the volunteers' safety and to call for emergency medical assistance if needed for individuals encountered on the street. Volunteers also used two vans accessed by walkie-talkie to transport homeless individuals who requested assistance in getting to a shelter.

MEALS PROGRAMS

The Shelter Commission contacted shelters and meals programs (soup kitchens) that serve meals on Mondays to obtain the number of meals served.

THE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers were recruited from the various shelters throughout the City, neighborhood residents, City employees, and City Year volunteers. This was an important element of the process, because people who work with this population can assist in avoiding stereotypes which are often associated with homelessness. The study started at 10 p.m. in order to ensure that businesses or other places of temporary refuge are closed. Also, the study was conducted on a Monday night/Tuesday morning when there is less general pedestrian traffic.

This census count has been conducted annually during the second or third week of December, when the weather is cold enough to identify the population that is exposed to the elements and readily in need of temporary shelter. At the time of the census, the temperature was 29 degrees dropping to 23 degrees by dawn.

Volunteers were asked to designate people by the following identifiable factors:

1. Was the individual definitely or possibly homeless ?
People who have a place to go often appear not to. If it was unclear in specific situations, volunteers were asked to record these individuals as "possible." The city included people listed as "possible" in the count presented in this document.
2. Was the individual in need of medical attention ?
The census volunteers included many medical professionals from Boston's Health Care for the Homeless. As well, Boston City Hospital provides service to indigent patients.
3. Did the individual need transportation to shelter ?

While Pine Street Inn operates an outreach van every night, some individuals may be unaware of these services or may be unable to find a ride to shelter. The Census used two vans provided by Long Island Shelter as well as Pine Street's outreach van to transport people to shelter.

Since the outdoor homeless population is served by several different outreach programs, our purpose was simply to determine the size of the homeless population in Boston.

HISTORY

The census of Boston's homeless population is conducted annually by the City's Emergency Shelter Commission. The 1983 study, conducted by six volunteers working over a period of two weeks, was the City's first attempt to identify the size of the street population associated with homelessness. This beginning work on counting the homeless inspired later projects which provided a clearer picture of the scope of the homeless population in the City of Boston. The study has grown to include dozens of non-profit service organizations, over one hundred and fifty volunteers, and appropriate City agencies as directed by Mayor Menino.

PURPOSE

Until the scope and nature of the problem can be defined, government agencies are not adequately prepared to address important service delivery issues. Prior to conducting the first census count of the homeless in 1983, some estimates of the number of homeless in Boston varied by as much as ten thousand people. With accurate numbers, the City can coordinate the services, including shelter, street outreach, food, clothing, medical, employment training, substance abuse treatment, and mental health treatment, that not only enable homeless people to survive but to help them move beyond shelter to more independent and productive lives.

To better understand the issues facing homeless families and individuals, the Mayor commissioned a study by the Center for Social Policy at the McCormack Institute and the Center for Survey Research, both based at the University of Massachusetts Boston, to answer three primary questions: *Who currently uses the emergency shelter system? Where have these persons come from?* and *What are their resource needs?* The UMASS survey was conducted on March 19, 1997. Key findings from this survey of 338 homeless individuals and 94 families sheltered or served by 33 shelter programs will be referenced in the narrative accompanying this census report.

The annual homeless census informs the Mayor as to gaps in the continuum of care and what resources the City will need in order to meet that commitment. Under the leadership of Mayor Menino, the City of Boston continues its commitment that no individual will go without a bed, without a meal, without medical care, without opportunity and hope simply because they are homeless.

THE POPULATION OF THE STREET

THE POPULATION OF THE STREET

Winter 1996-97

Winter 1997-98

	Male	Female	Children	Male	Female	Children
Street Count	163	20	0	152	28	0
TOTALS	183			180		

There were 152 men and 28 women on the streets of Boston on the night of the census, similar to last year's number. Many of those found on the streets this year accepted rides into shelter.

Many homeless men and women who sleep on the streets are mentally ill. Some mental illnesses, especially schizophrenia, cause the person to experience auditory hallucinations and acute paranoia. In many cases exacerbated by substance abuse, the person's condition has often deteriorated to the point where they are too paranoid to go into already overcrowded shelters and afraid of the people who offer them help in the street. Clearly, these people are in need of specialized services, including street outreach, appropriate shelter, and in-patient services if necessary.

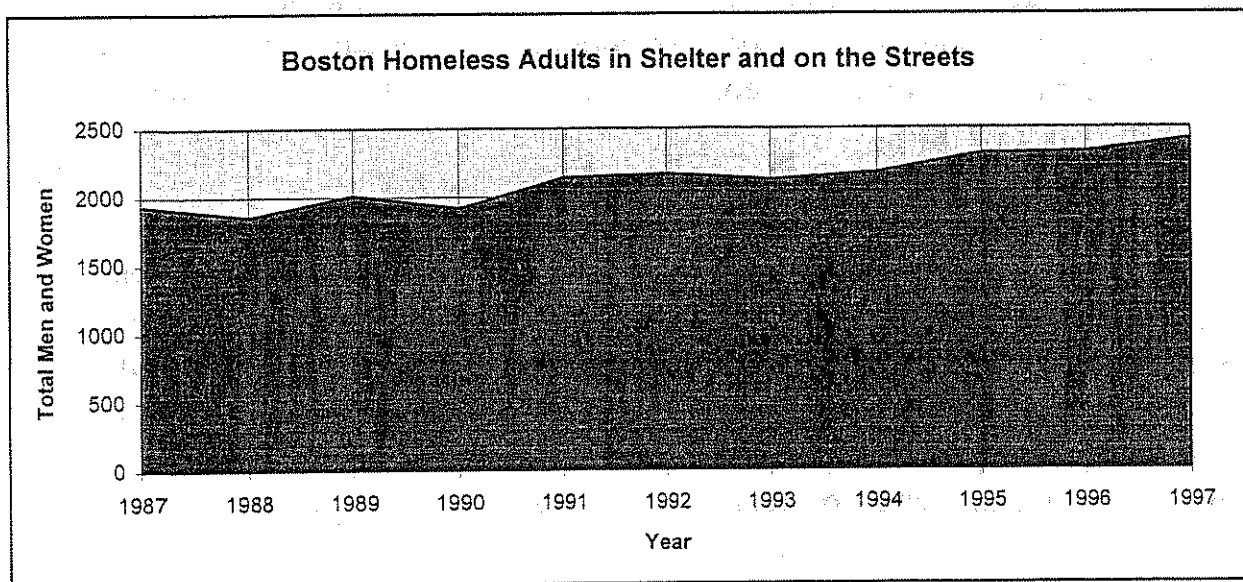
Recently daytime outreach programs in Boston's downtown neighborhoods have been added to work with this hard-to-serve group. Tri-City Mental Health is working with the mentally ill in the Back Bay, Shattuck Shelter is working with substance abusers in the Back Bay, and the Pine Street Inn has expanded its daytime outreach in Downtown Crossing to cover parts of the Back Bay and the North Station areas. Pine Street Inn has operated a nighttime outreach van for the last 10 years attending to this hard-core population. Together these programs are working to link those homeless people who stay on the streets to services.

A recent community effort to assist those on the street is the Area A-1 Community Task Force on Homelessness. The Task Force was established by Captain Ronald X. Conway of the Boston Police Department and brings together a diverse group of people representing homeless service providers; City and State agencies; local and national businesses; and the Boston religious community. The mission of the Task Force is to focus the downtown community's attention and resources in a partnership to identify and establish comprehensive and compassionate approaches to meeting the needs of homeless people as well as the needs of the community at large.

HOMELESS ADULTS IN SHELTER

ADULT SHELTERS

	Winter 1996-97		Winter 1997-98	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Betty's Place		14		15
Health Care for Homeless	45	3	57	13
Kingston House	47	8	43	8
New England Vets Shelter	143		131	
Pine Street Inn	345		353	
Anchor Inn	197		190	
Women's Inn		113		109
St. Paul's/Holy Name	55		60	
Night Center	55	17	58	16
Long Island Shelter	374	55	459	59
Woods-Mullen	123	58	127	52
LIS Annex	103		102	
Rosie's Place		20		20
Sancta Maria		10		9
Shattuck Shelter	170	17	175	18
United Homes	97	8	85	16
YMCA - Cardinal Medeiros	65		63	
SUB-TOTALS:	1819	323	1903	335
TOTALS	2142		2238	



HOMELESS ADULTS IN SHELTER

There were 1,903 men and 335 women in adult shelters on the night of the census - for a total of 2,238 which is a 4.5% increase from the number counted in adult shelters last year. The City of Boston's Long Island Shelter reported 799 guests, which is 35.7% of the adult shelter population. The Pine Street Inn's 786 guests make up 35.1% of those counted in adult shelters. Many nights of each month shelters are over capacity. On the night of the census, Pine Street Inn's Men's Inn was 26% over capacity; Long Island Shelter was 12% over capacity; and the Shattuck Shelter was 10% over capacity. Shelters are transitioning people into the mainstream, but the fact remains that newly homeless people are moving into these shelter beds as they become available.

The City credits the McKinney Homeless Assistance grants received from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the transitional movement out of shelters. An investment of federal resources, not federal mandates, is a major part of the solution to the problems of our country's homeless. HUD has recognized the strength of the collaboration between local government and homeless service providers and, consequently, Boston has been able to leverage significant resources from the federal government to create new homeless programs to complement the existing shelter system.

These numbers demonstrate that with appropriate resources homeless people can move beyond shelter. In the past two years, thousands of individuals have used the safety net of emergency shelter, received the assistance they needed, and moved along the continuum of care and into permanent housing.

However, the shelter system is often the safety net for the failures of other systems in our society. For every person who has been successfully placed in housing, a newly homeless person has taken their place. Shelters report increasing numbers of young adults and ex-offenders are entering the shelter system. The UMASS Boston study reported that 5% of individuals in adult shelters were 25 years of age or younger and that 22% of individuals in adult shelters had been in either a jail, detention center, prison, or halfway house for ex-offenders within the

past 12 months.¹ Advocates have been working with the Commonwealth's Departments of Youth Services and Corrections to address the movement from DYS facilities, foster homes and prison settings directly to shelter.

The UMass Boston study also noted that 54% of the women and 35% of the men in shelters for singles reported that they had children under the age of 18 who were not currently living with them.² Pine Street Inn's Women's Inn has reported an increase in women separated from their children: the intact family is denied access to the State's family shelter system, so the mother leaves the children with relatives and stays herself at the adult shelter. Clearly restricted access to family shelter is harming many families.

According to the UMASS Boston study, 31% of individuals in the adult shelters report having served in the U.S. military.³

The City of Boston and shelter providers are making every effort to convert shelter beds to transitional beds. This effort is to help move people beyond shelter and into housing and jobs. Transitional programs comprise 47% of Pine Street Inn's beds, 33% of Long Island's beds, and 29% of Shattuck's shelter beds.

¹ Friedman, D., Hayes, M., McGah, J., Roman, A. (1997). *A Snapshot of Individuals and Families Accessing Boston's Emergency Shelters, 1997*. Boston, MA: University of Massachusetts Boston. p.7&14.

² *A Snapshot of Individuals and Families Accessing Boston's Emergency Shelters, 1997*, p.9.

³ *A Snapshot of Individuals and Families Accessing Boston's Emergency Shelters, 1997*, p.9.

HOMELESS FAMILIES IN SHELTER

FAMILY SHELTERS

Winter 1996-97

Winter 1997-98

	Male	Female	Children	Male	Female	Children
Boston Family		7	14	0	6	7
Casa Nueva Vida		6	12	0	6	14
Crittenton-Hastings		15	17	2	14	25
Crossroads	1	9	23	2	8	22
Families-In-Trans.		22	48	2	22	46
Family House		17	22	0	19	29
LifeHouse	1	11	6	0	10	15
Margaret's House		25	45	0	26	32
Project Hope		4	8	0	8	10
Queens of Peace		7	4	0	5	2
Salvation Army		3	4	0	4	9
Sojourner House	2	6	9	1	6	14
St. Ambrose Inn	1	11	19	0	11	22
St. Mary's Home		19	13	0	8	9
Traveler's Aid		1	1	2	5	14
New Chardon Street (closed for repair)		12	19	0	0	0
SUB-TOTALS:	5	175	264	9	158	270

OTHER

Winter 1996-97

Winter 1997-98

	Male	Female	Children	Male	Female	Children
Families in shelters outside Boston *	16	44	192	8	69	126
Scattered Site Shelter	12	120	289	12	122	283
SUB-TOTALS:	28	164	481	20	191	409

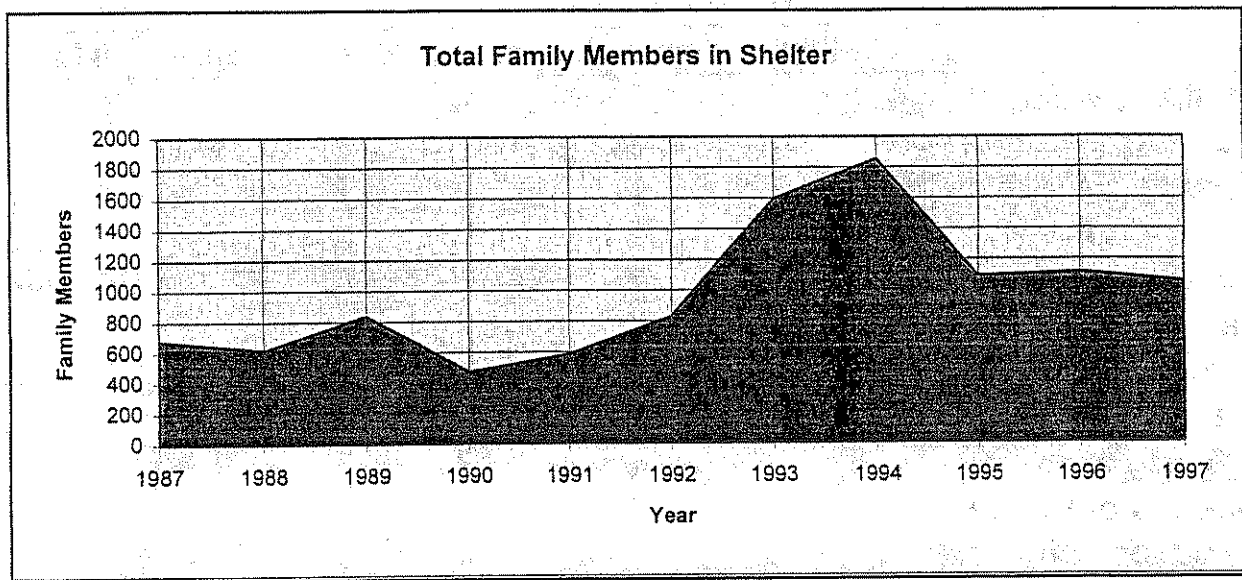
TOTAL HOMELESS FAMILIES IN BOSTON

Winter 1996-97

Winter 1997-98

	Male	Female	Children	Male	Female	Children
	33	339	745	29	349	679
TOTALS		1117			1057	

HOMELESS FAMILIES IN SHELTER



Shelters for families are mostly funded by the Commonwealth's Department of Transitional Assistance (formerly the Department of Public Welfare). This year's 29 men, 349 women, and 679 children staying in family shelters and scattered site shelter programs (where families are temporarily placed in an apartment rather than a congregate or communal shelter) represent a decrease of 5.5% compared to last year's figures.

The City of Boston's Emergency Shelter Commission continues to receive calls from families, particularly poor working families, denied access to shelter as a result of restrictive State shelter screening regulations. The income standards which determine eligibility for shelter are particularly problematic and out of touch with reality. According to these guidelines, a family of three (for instance, a mother and two children) is ineligible for shelter if their gross income is over \$997.15 per month (\$11,965.80 per year or \$6.23 per hour for a 40 hour work week). The State bases this policy on the belief that a family of three with income over this \$997 amount should be able to afford housing; however, the current real estate market in the Greater Boston area dictates that this family will be spending over 60% of their gross income for a cheap one-bedroom apartment, and they still have to pay for utilities, food, and day care. These working poor families are falling through the cracks in the safety net: they are too poor to afford decent housing and too "rich" (according to the State's guidelines) to be eligible for temporary shelter.

The causes of family homelessness are rooted in poverty, and denying a family emergency shelter only exacerbates their problems forcing them either to live in overcrowded conditions with reluctant relatives or friends, or split the family up with different children staying with different relatives. The UMass Boston study reports that 73% of the parents in family shelters indicate that they had lived in a "doubled up" situation (i.e. they had lived in the home of a relative and/or friend) within the previous 12 months.⁴ And as noted earlier, some families who are not eligible for family shelter are sending the children to stay with relatives so the parent(s) can then stay in an adult shelter. The emergency family shelter system administered by DTA needs to be accessible to families in need to provide a safety net and hopefully a foundation for future independence for homeless families in Massachusetts. With that safety net inaccessible to many families because of arbitrary eligibility requirements, the State is jeopardizing the lives and futures of too many Massachusetts children.

Shelter stays continue to increase in length, due to a lack of affordable housing and a lack of adequate income supports for families, particularly families headed by single mothers. Family stays in shelter are averaging as high as 10 months in some shelters. Housing search workers under contract with the State report that, because of lack of affordable housing in the Boston area, homeless families have been directed as far away as Fall River and New Bedford in search of affordable market-rate housing. In recognition of this reality, the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the Department of Housing and Community Development have recently made monies available for sheltered families to help them move to their own apartment.

In terms of subsidized housing, the effects of Federal and State cutbacks for affordable housing are being felt. The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP, formerly the 707 program), managed by the Commonwealth's Department of Housing and Community Development, does not roll over certificates. This means that once a family has increased its income and no longer needs that subsidy, that subsidy is not made available to another family in need. Because of the overall lack of affordable units, the City strongly encourages the State to create an affordable housing strategy for families who are homeless and at-risk of homelessness.

⁴ *A Snapshot of Individuals and Families Accessing Boston's Emergency Shelters, 1997, p.32.*

In conjunction with the lack of affordable housing, lack of income (based on several factors including a mismatch of job skills with available jobs, low AFDC payments, lack of day care slots, lack of quality education, and the lack of paternal financial support) causes homelessness for families. Combined with cutbacks in food assistance programs, the imposition of the two-year time limit which starts on December 1, 1998 will impact many homeless families in a negative way by taking away a source of income that has helped these families get over hard times.

As families are cut off from benefits, they will need jobs and job training to survive. The UMASS Boston survey reported that 42% of parents in shelter had not completed high school and had no GED.⁵ The innovative Transition to Work Collaborative, funded by the City with Federal McKinney money, will work with homeless families to increase their education, income, and self-sufficiency as they move from the shelter to permanent housing.

⁵ *A Snapshot of Individuals and Families Accessing Boston's Emergency Shelters, 1997, p.27.*

WOMEN IN CRISIS

WOMEN IN CRISIS PROGRAMS

	Winter 1996-97		Winter 1997-98	
	Female	Children	Female	Children
Asian Shelter Advocacy Project	5	9	5	9
Casa Myrna Vazquez	30	38	25	27
Dove, Inc.	5	8	4	5
Elizabeth Stone House	24	29	27	34
FINEX	7	9	7	6
Harbor Me	0	0	2	2
Renewal House	4	3	5	6
Transition House	4	4	6	8
SUB-TOTALS:	79	100	81	97
TOTALS	179		178	

The number of women and children in domestic violence shelters remained stable. There were 81 women and 97 children in shelter on the night of the census, compared to 79 women and 97 children last year. Advocates report that requests for emergency shelter still exceed the supply.

The domestic violence shelters and the family shelters are operated as separate systems. Because the State imposes a 90 day limit on the amount of time a woman can stay at a battered women's shelter, these women often have to leave these domestic violence programs before they have secured housing. Consequently, many of these women then enter the emergency shelter programs for homeless families. In the fall of 1994, Mayor Menino gave battered women a higher priority for Section 8 and public housing in an effort to decrease the amount of time these families have to stay in shelter.

Clearly, domestic violence is a reality which affects women in both the adult shelters and the family shelters. The UMASS Boston survey indicates that 22% of female heads of families in the family shelters reported that they had been abused by a partner or household member within the past 12 months.⁶ It would be less disruptive to battered women and their children if they could receive shelter in one location while they are seeking housing, and not have to bounce between the domestic violence system and the family emergency system.

⁶ *A Snapshot of Individuals and Families Accessing Boston's Emergency Shelters, 1997 p.22.*

ADOLESCENT PROGRAMS

	Winter 1996-97			Winter 1997-98		
	Male	Female	Children	Male	Female	Children
Bridge Transitional Living Extension	6	4	2	9	4	0
Bridge-Elliott Complex	8	7	5	3	12	9
Bridge "Runaway Housing"	0	0	2	1	1	0
Mass. Halfway Houses	NA	NA	NA	22	0	0
YouthBuild Boston	9			4	0	0
SUB-TOTALS:	23	11	9	39	17	9
TOTALS	43			65		

There were 39 young males between the ages of 18 and 25, 17 young females between the ages of 18 and 25, and 9 children under 18 yrs. of age in the adolescent programs this year, compared to 23 males, 11 females and 9 children last year. Please note that last year's figures for Mass. Halfway Houses' adolescent programs were included in the 1996-97 Transitional Programs category.

These programs are essentially operating at capacity. The adult shelters, such as Pine Street, Long Island, and Shattuck, have reported an increase in the number of young people over 18 years of age using adult programs; these programs do not offer services to anyone younger than 18 years based on the belief that the adolescent group has specialized needs that can best be addressed elsewhere.

Bridge Over Troubled Waters, funded by Federal McKinney money, will be opening a transitional day program for homeless youth and young adults living on the streets or in the adult emergency shelters.

HOSPITALS

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS

	Winter 1996-97		Winter 1997-98	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Boston Medical Center (formerly Boston City Hospital)	0	0	9	2
Beth Israel-Deaconess	0	0	2	0
Brigham & Women's	0	0	1	0
Carney Hospital	1		0	0
Massachusetts General	3	2	6	0
New England Medical Center	1	0	3	0
SUB-TOTALS:	5	2	21	2
TOTALS	7		23	

This count identifies the size of the homeless population seeking medical treatment in hospital emergency rooms on the evening of the count.

HOSPITAL INPATIENT

	Winter 1996-97		Winter 1997-98	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Beth Israel-Deaconess	NA	NA	0	0
Boston Medical Center (formerly Boston City Hospital)	NA	NA	17	3
Brigham & Women's	NA	NA	5	1
Carney Hospital	NA	NA	0	0
Massachusetts General	NA	NA	3	2
New England Medical Center	NA	NA	4	2
Shattuck Hospital			33	8
SUB-TOTALS:	40	12	62	16
TOTALS	52		78	

For the first time, the census has included numbers from hospital inpatient units. This data was collected by Boston's Health Care for the Homeless which provides health care services to homeless individuals and families in many of the local shelters and operates the Barbara McInnis House, a respite unit for homeless individuals who need recuperative time after a hospital stay.

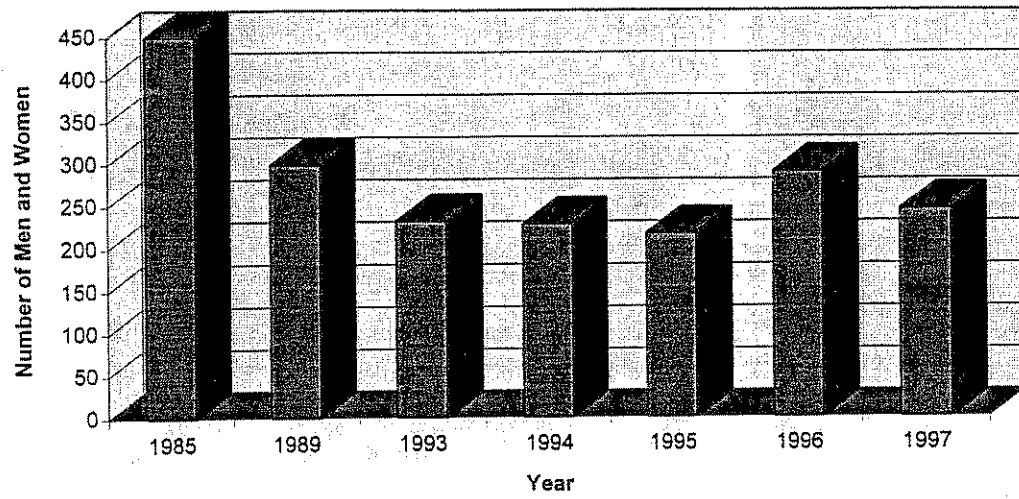
DETOX

	Winter 1996-97		Winter 1997-98	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Andrew House	20	5	14	7
Boston Detox	38	15	7	3
Dimock Detox	20	10	7	3
Marathon Detox	28	3	30	4
River Street	16	5	14	7
STAIR	10	4	6	3
Tewksbury (Nichols)	115		125	
Women's Hope	NA	NA	0	15
SUB-TOTALS:	247	43	203	42
TOTALS	290		245	

On the night of the census, there were 203 homeless men and 42 homeless women in detox facilities - a total of 245. Other than the Nichols Program at Tewksbury State Hospital, this total does not include any Boston homeless persons who may have been in a detox outside the city.

Since the demise of the Addiction Center at Bridgewater, homeless providers have been advocating that the State increase the supply of detox and recovery beds for homeless individuals. The City would like to commend the State Legislature and the Commonwealth's Department of Public Health for efforts in 1996 to provide 60 additional detox beds specifically targeted to homeless individuals as well as 60 additional recovery beds. These new resources are reaching this population and are creating a way out of homelessness for those grappling with alcohol and other drugs.

Boston Homeless Persons in Detox on Night of Census

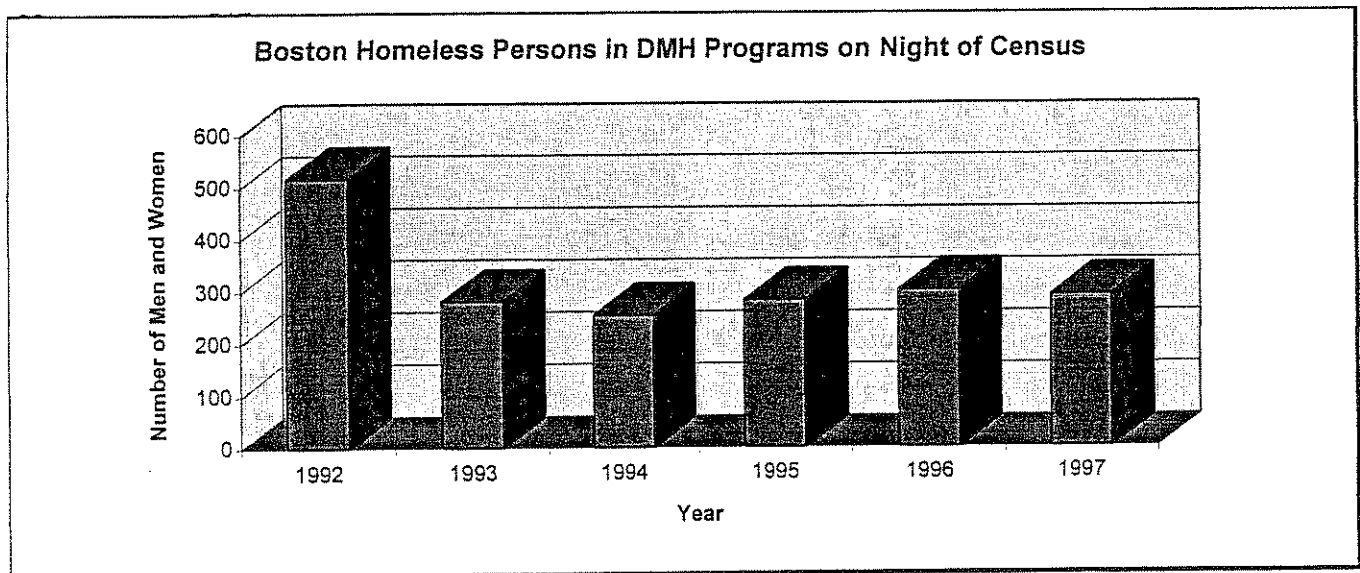


MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES

MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES

	Winter 1996-97		Winter 1997-98	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Mass. Mental Health				
Fenwood Inn	26	21	27	14
Deaconess	0	0	4	1
Lindemann Center	14	7	19	6
Solomon Carter Fuller	14	6	20	10
Bay Cove M.H.	89	21	86	29
Bay View Inn	34	2	17	
Parker Street Central	29	16	30	12
Parker Street West		19		13
St. Alphonsus Respite	2	1	1	2
SUB-TOTALS:	208	93	204	87
TOTALS	301		291	

This year, there were 204 men and 87 women, a total of 291 homeless individuals, in Department of Mental Health shelters.



MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES

The State has recognized that mental illness is a significant factor for a large percentage of the homeless population. Appropriately, the State has committed resources over the past few years to create housing units for the homeless mentally ill. The City commends the State for this commitment and encourages the State to continue providing housing for this population. The City also recommends that the State recognize the need to provide housing and service options to the homeless mentally ill throughout the Commonwealth, and not just in the City of Boston.

The State needs to provide a continuum-of-care for the homeless mentally ill. Homeless shelters are not equipped to deliver the mental health services homeless mentally ill men and women need. DMH needs to improve access to their specialized shelters in order to move homeless men and women along the continuum and into permanent housing.

Both the City and the State have come to recognize the specific needs of the dually diagnosed population. These are people who have both substance abuse and mental health issues. Traditionally, a split between the substance abuse and mental health service systems would result in these clients receiving uncoordinated treatment. For example, a schizophrenic man who abused alcohol in an attempt to drown out the voices in his head might receive treatment in detox for his drinking. But after completing detox with his mental illness untreated, the symptoms of schizophrenia would still be there and he would be tempted to return to drinking in an attempt to self-medicate.

More recently, providers have advocated for the closer coordination of mental health and substance abuse services for this population. Bay Cove Human Services' Project ACCESS, in collaboration with the Shattuck Shelter and the Vietnam Veterans Workshop and funded by Federal McKinney money, will focus on dually diagnosed homeless men and women and their special needs.

TRANSITIONAL SHELTERS

TRANSITIONAL SHELTERS

Winter 1996-97

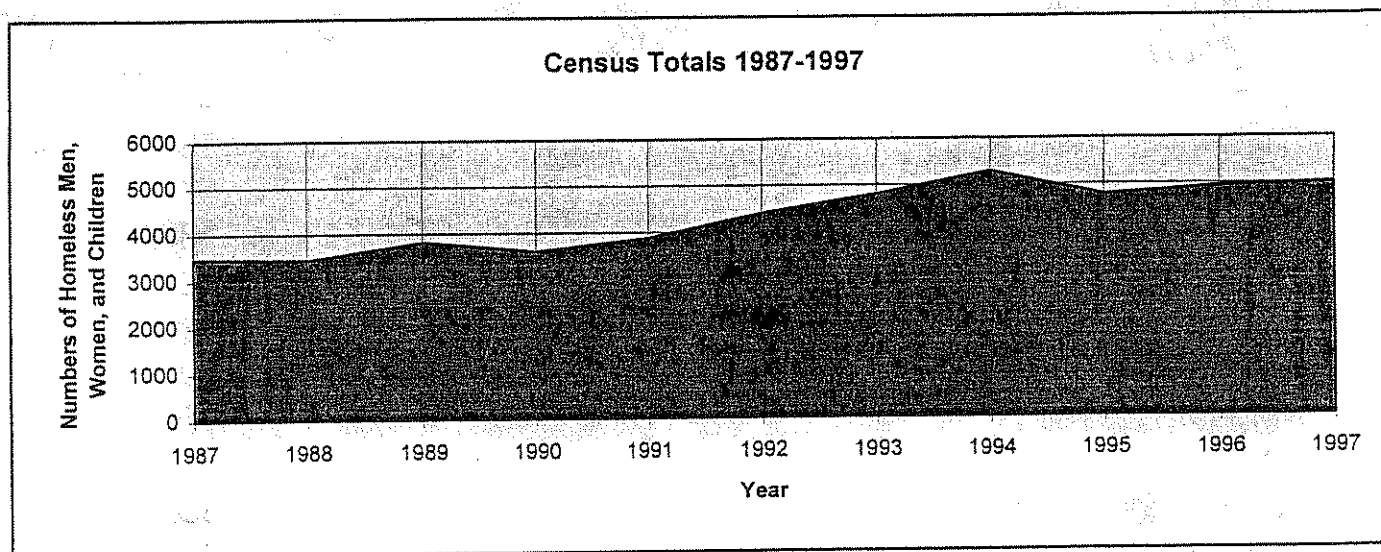
Winter 1997-98

	Male	Female	Children	Male	Female	Children
Brookview House		8	27		8	19
Casa Esperanza	25	10	6	25	19	2
Crittenton-Hastings						
Transitional		15	19		15	25
T.R.A.C.		18	16		18	17
Dennis McGlaughlin House		10	22		4	3
Elders Living At Home	9	5		19	12	
Empowering Young Mothers		2	2		5	6
Harbor Lights	52	29		62	32	
Horizons House		3	3		6	6
Mass. Halfway Houses	114	14	12	121	32	3
Nazareth House		2	3		6	7
New England Vets						
Transitional	113			109	6	
One Wise Street	8			9		
Revision House		11	13		9	12
Seton Manor	16	3		16	2	
Women, Inc.		21	12		15	
Portis House		4	7		3	8
SUB-TOTALS:	337	155	142	361	192	108
TOTALS		634			661	

The number of homeless people in transitional programs increased by 4% from 1996 to 1997. There were 634 homeless men, women and children in transitional shelters and programs this year, compared to 634 last year. This increase reflects the City's continued emphasis on transitional programming as one of the ways to end homelessness.

HOMELESS TOTALS

	Winter 1996-97			Winter 1997-98		
	Male	Female	Children	Male	Female	Children
Street Count	163	20	0	152	28	0
Adult Shelters	1819	323	0	1903	335	0
Family Shelters	5	175	264	9	158	270
Family Other	28	164	481	20	191	409
Women In Crisis	0	79	100	0	81	97
Adolescent	23	11	9	39	17	9
Hospital ER	5	2	0	21	2	0
Hospital Inpatient ⁷	40	12	0	62	16	0
Detox	247	43	0	203	42	0
Mental Health	208	93	0	204	87	0
Transitional Shelters	337	155	142	361	192	108
TOTALS	2875	1077	996	2974	1149	893
GRAND TOTALS	4948⁸			5016		



⁷ Hospital Inpatient numbers not originally included in 1996-1997 Census.

⁸ Total now includes Hospital Inpatient numbers not originally included in 1996-1997 Census.

HUNGER

Meals Served

	Winter 1996-97			Winter 1997-98		
	Male	Female	Children	Male	Female	Children
Aids Action	0	42	0			
Allston Brighton Food Pantry	0	25	0			
Asian Shelter	0	15	27			
Betty's Place	0	30	0			
Boston Fam. Shelter	0	18	21			
Boston Living Center	56	28	0			
Bridge Over Troubled Waters	45	57	27			
Casa Esperanza	75	57	6			
Casa Myrna Vazquez	0	67	41			
Casa Nueva Vida	0	18	39			
Cathedral Church of St. Paul	NA	NA	NA			
Center House	62	45	0			
Community Servings	263	176	0			
Crittenton-Hastings	0	54	51			
Crossroads Shelter	12	18	51			
Dove Inc.	0	12	15			
Families in Transition	2	8	22			
Haley House	100	0	0			
Kingston House	84	28	0			
Kit Clark	98	10	0			
Long Island Shelter	818	156	0			
Mass Halfway Houses	429	96	9			
McGlaughlin House	0	12	9			
Mt. Calvary	19	10	10			
Nazareth House	0	6	7			
New England Shelter for Homeless Vets	648	6	0			

Neighborhood Action	57	24	0
Pilgrim Congregational	170	32	0
Pine Street Inn	1324	206	0
Portis House	0	9	24
Project Hope	0	46	46
Project Place	23	10	0
Queens of Peace	0	12	4
Rosie's Place	0	180	0
Salvation Army Harbor Lights	231	70	0
Sancta Maria	0	27	0
Seaton Manor	32	4	0
Shattuck Shelter	401	42	0
St. Ambrose Family Shelter	0	33	66
St. Margaret's House	0	78	96
St. Mary's Home	0	24	27
St. Francis House	460	142	0
United Homes	170	32	0
West End Drop In Center	80	30	0
Women Inc.	0	45	0
Women's Lunch Place	0	175	0
TOTALS	5659	2215	598
GRAND TOTALS	8472		

This year for the first time the census is attempting to document the utilization of emergency meals programs in Boston. The Emergency Shelter Commission contacted 47 programs including shelters which serve meals. Some of these programs serve primarily homeless clients; others serve a low income population, families and individuals who have housing but because of their lack of financial resources need to use the emergency meals programs. The census did not attempt to document groceries given out by the 79 food pantries in Boston nor did the census attempt to count meal programs which serve on days other than Mondays.

The fact that over 8,000 free meals are served in the City on a given day is a reflection of the seriousness of hunger for many Boston citizens. According to the 1990 U.S. Census, 18.7% of Bostonians were living below the poverty level (or income of \$16,050 for a family of 4). Lack of adequate income, whether due to unemployment, low wages, or insufficient income from government benefits such as AFDC, SSI, and Disability, is the major cause of hunger. Recent cuts by the Federal Government to the Food Stamp program have only served to decrease the resources that low income people have available for food. High housing and utility costs in Boston have also contributed to the pressures on families and individuals; during winter months many people face the choice of heat or eat.

In addition to receiving meals at one of these programs, low income families and individuals may also use the 79 food pantries in the City. Each food pantry is a community-based program usually staffed by volunteers. A pantry typically will assist a family or individual with a few bags of groceries on a limited basis. Other governmental, non-profit, and community efforts to address hunger include:

- the School Breakfast and Lunch Program which provides students at participating schools with a nutritious breakfast and lunch;
- the Summer Food Service Program which serves nutritious meals and snacks to school age children when school is not in session. Meals are served at Boston Public Schools and neighborhood Community Centers;
- the WIC Program for Women, Infants, and Children which provides nutritious supplemental foods and nutritional education to eligible low and moderate income pregnant and post-partum women and children under five years of age;
- the Food Stamp Program which provides coupons that enable eligible families and individuals to purchase food;
- the Food Source Hotline sponsored by Project Bread which provides information and referral to food pantries and meals programs;
- the 18 Farmers Markets in the City of Boston which offer low cost, fresh produce to inner city customers; and
- the Boston Can Share Food Drive which collects food from City Hall departments and Boston businesses for distribution through the Greater Boston Food Bank to pantries.

The Emergency Shelter Commission will continue this initial effort to document hunger in Boston.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the following folks for their help with this year's census:

Mayor's Office

Office Of Neighborhood Services

Shelter Providers

Frank Frattaroli & Inspectional Services Department

City Year Volunteers

Barry Bock & Joanne Hopkins of the Barbara McInnis House

David Anderson & Delores Dell

Ann Roper & Laurie Ford

and

volunteers who went out into the cold!

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**IN MEMORY OF
Jose Flores**

